

DEPARTMENT OF STATE



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INTERVIEW WITH
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE

BY
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MR. CRONKITE: Dr. Kissinger ended his 11-day African shuttle today and flew to London to brief British officials. I was able to talk with Dr. Kissinger via satellite about the situation in southern Africa.

Dr. Kissinger, it appears that at this hour this evening congratulations are in order. Rhodesian sources say that Premier [sic] Smith's party has accepted your proposals to achieve racial peace there — proposals, I know, originally put forth by the British. Can you tell us now specifically what the proposals are?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: No. I think that we should wait until Mr. Smith speaks to his people tomorrow. But they follow in the main the basic proposals that were made by the British Government last March and which have now been worked out, with some modifications, with the Rhodesian authorities, apparently.

MR. CRONKITE: Do the modifications, may we ask, change the timetable? Does it still provide majority rule after two years?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: The timetable has not been changed.

MR. CRONKITE: We've been led to believe that the proposals provide a cessation of black guerrilla activities during the transition period. Is that correct, sir?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: It has always been understood that at some point in this process guerrilla activity would cease. But again, we are at the beginning of a very delicate process. Mr. Smith has not yet spoken; the African states have not yet reacted; negotiations which will involve also Great Britain have yet to be conducted. So I don't think I should go into the details until the first step has as yet been taken.

MR. CRONKITE: Dr. Kissinger, the African ministers met at the UN today, and we understand that spokesmen for the neighboring nations — Tanzania, Zambia and Mozambique — all said that they would continue

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liberation activities — guerrilla activities, in other words — until the transfer of power to majority rule actually was made. Now does that surprise you? Does that throw a block into this process?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: No. This is consistent with the discussions that have been taking place. We have all been speaking to the authorities in Rhodesia, to the South African Government and to the black African states, and what is emerging hopefully is a consensus to which all parties agree.

MR. CRONKITE: What is the next step, sir?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: The next step is that Mr. Smith state the circumstances in which he is prepared to solve the constitutional crisis. Then Britain, as the country that has the constitutional responsibility, will probably seek to facilitate a conference between the black national movement and the settlers in Rhodesia and that this will bring about the negotiation which will produce a final settlement.

MR. CRONKITE: If this doesn't work, do you have any other plan to fall back on?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: If we had not made this effort, there would have been a race war in southern Africa which was already escalating, which would have brought a great risk of foreign intervention, and which would have spread to neighboring countries. We hope that we have contributed to averting this; and, having brought it this far, we are not counting on it failing.

MR. CRONKITE: Dr. Kissinger, there was more rioting in Johannesburg today. When you saw Prime Minister Vorster of South Africa, did you get any indication that there will be any change in South Africa's attitude toward apartheid at this time?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: The South African situation is extremely complicated. I made clear our views on the subject and our hope that there would be an evolution that would bring more harmony.

MR. CRONKITE: Any assurances from him to give you encouragement?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: It is a complicated process that will take longer than the one that we have negotiated in the last few weeks.

MR. CRONKITE: Thank you very much, Secretary of State Kissinger, in London.

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